



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 16th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request EPA-R9-2018-009964

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is in response to the above-referenced FOIA request which we received on July 25, 2018. You requested the following records:

All emails, text messages, or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp) sent to or from Mike Stoker, Region 9 Administrator, containing any of the following words or phrases: a. "lock her up"; b. Hillary; c. Clinton; d. "Make American Great Again"; e. MAGA.

Please provide all responsive records from the date of Mr. Stoker joined EPA through July 25, 2018.

EPA has concluded a reasonable search for the records responsive to your FOIA request and is providing 14 email records in full. There are no responsive text messages. The records and an invoice (if applicable) have been uploaded to EPA's FOIAonline system found at:

<https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>

To access the records, reference your FOIA request as EPA-R9-2018-009964.

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may appeal this response by email at hq.foia@epa.gov, or by mail to the EPA's National FOIA Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2310A), Washington, DC 20460 or through FOIAonline if you are an account holder. If you are submitting your appeal by hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 5315, Washington, DC 20460. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 90-calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter must identify the determination being appealed including the assigned FOIA request number. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGiS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or fax, (202) 741-5769.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hage of this office at hage.christopher@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah Jordan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deborah Jordan
Deputy Regional Administrator

To: Stowe Mountain - Front Desk[FrontDesk2@destinationhotels.com]
From: Kohlmorgen, Ken
Sent: Thur 8/30/2018 8:24:34 AM
Subject: Stowe mountain Lodge Complimentary N.Y. Times Digest 083018
[times_083018.pdf](#)

LODGE SPECIALS ACCOMMODATIONS GOLF WELLNESS EVENTS ADVENTURE CUISINE



In the midst of nature...and the height of luxury

Good Morning,

Please enjoy your complimentary copy of the New York Times Digest. To access the paper, please click on the attachment.

Join us for breakfast in Solstice Restaurant between 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM, or enjoy a leisurely meal in your room through In-Room Dining.

If there is anything we can do to make your stay more enjoyable, please call us at the Front Desk at any time.

Have a wonderful day in the Green Mountains.

Warmest Regards,

Management and Staff at Stowe Mountain Lodge

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Times Digest

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

FROM THE PAGES OF *The New York Times*

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Trump Lawyer Is Ushered Out With a Tweet

WASHINGTON — President Trump surprised Donald F. McGahn II, the White House counsel, on Wednesday with an abrupt announcement that McGahn will be departing his post this fall, effectively forcing the long-anticipated exit of a top adviser who has cooperated extensively in the investigation into Russian election interference.

The president made the declaration on Twitter without first informing McGahn, according to people close to both men. It came 11 days after The New York Times reported the degree to which McGahn has emerged as a key witness in the investigation. McGahn has cooperated extensively with prosecutors, who are scrutinizing whether the president tried to obstruct the investigation.

In addition to stripping the White House of another top official and one of the few senior advisers who has been willing to push back on Trump, McGahn's departure may fuel concerns about how the president has interacted with witnesses and potential witnesses in the Russia investigation.

In his tweet Wednesday morning, Trump said McGahn would leave this fall after the Senate votes on the confirmation of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to fill the vacant seat on the Supreme Court, the culmination of a quiet but intensive effort he has directed to remake the federal courts by installing scores of conservative judges.

But the relationship between the president and McGahn has been rocky since he failed to stop the attorney general, Jeff Sessions, from recusing himself a year ago from the Justice Department's investigation. At the time, Trump exploded at McGahn and said he needed an attorney general who would protect him.

The two men also clashed last June after Trump asked McGahn to fire the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III. Trump ultimately backed down after McGahn threatened to resign rather than carry out the president's directive. (NYT)

In Midterms, Fault Line Forms on Race

Democratic nominees for governor include three African-Americans, two of them in the old Confederacy, a prospect that not long ago would have been unthinkable. Record numbers of women are competing in congressional races. Elsewhere, Muslims, gays, lesbians and transgender people will be on the ballot for high-profile offices.

That diverse cast is teeing up a striking contrast for voters in November at a time when some in the Republican Party, taking their cues from President Trump, are embracing messages with explicit appeals to racial anxieties and resentment. The result is making racial and ethnic issues and conflicts central in the November elections in a way that's far more explicit than the recent past.

Trump and his Republican allies have made crime, violence, gangs and societal unrest a centerpiece of their attacks against Democrats in this election, often linking them to causes that have a common racial thread — the policies of liberal leaders in heavily minority cities, illegal immigration and Trump's

campaign impugning the patriotism of professional athletes, many of whom are black.

A possible preview played out Wednesday barely 12 hours after Andrew Gillum, the African-American mayor of Tallahassee, won a surprising victory in Florida's Democratic primary for governor.

Gillum's opponent, Ron DeSantis, described Gillum in an interview on Fox News as an "articulate spokesman" for far-left views and said voters should not take a gamble on him because he would "monkey up" the progress made under Florida's current Republican governor, Rick Scott.

Democrats immediately denounced DeSantis's words, which are freighted with a condescending and racist meaning for many blacks. Fox News issued a rare statement disavowing the remarks. DeSantis, who paid homage to the president in a campaign ad showing him teaching his daughter to read by sounding out "Make America Great Again" from a Trump placard, insisted that he was being purposely tak-

en out of context.

Racial discord has never been far from the surface of American politics. But critics say any effort by Republicans in recent years to tread lightly around racially sensitive issues has been tossed aside by Trump.

His hyperbolic language has created a permission structure for other politicians to do the same, political strategists said. Some Republicans say following Trump's lead will only hurt the party's candidates.

"Everything is being seen through the filter of Trump," said Russ Schriefer, a Republican consultant who is working with Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland, whose Democratic opponent, Ben Jealous, is black. Hogan has been one of the rare Republicans to successfully create a groove for himself in the party that is distinct from Trump.

When you try to act too much like Trump, Schriefer added, "You've come to the consciousness of the voters based on that, so it's a lot harder to escape."

JEREMY W. PETERS

Andrew Gillum Pulled Off Upset of a Lifetime

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Andrew Gillum waged a quixotic Democratic primary campaign for Florida governor, defeating wealthy rivals who outspent him, dismissing moderate naysayers who questioned him and believing until the end that an unorthodox strategy of excitement generated mostly by word of mouth would propel him to victory.

He dropped in on community groups to make personal connections. He cold-called would-be donors who, truth be told, sometimes hung up on him. Just a month before the election, he was so worried that few voters knew that he, the 39-year-old African-American mayor of Tallahassee, was on the ballot that his campaign spent its scarce funds on an unusual political advertising device: billboards.

"I did some things that nobody would ever advise a campaign," Gillum said on Wednesday, the



Andrew Gillum

day after his improbable victory.

Now comes the difficult part, as Gillum prepares to deal with attacks he avoided in the primary — including over a lingering F.B.I. investigation into Tallahassee City Hall — and with ugly matters of race that emerged hours after his election.

His Republican opponent, Rep. Ron DeSantis, said in a Fox News interview on Wednesday that a "socialist agenda" in Florida would "monkey things up." Democrats heard racist dog whistles. For Gillum, the sound was a little louder.

"Bullhorns," he said.

DeSantis called the criticism "absurd." The three-term con-

gressman and Navy veteran is an ardent supporter of President Trump, who essentially secured DeSantis's victory with a Twitter endorsement and subsequent rally in Tampa.

Gillum used the tussle to get airtime on Fox News, seeking to harness the publicity he received from his surprise win into the sort of major fund-raising that previously eluded him. By Wednesday night, he had raised more than \$800,000 online since his victory.

Tom Steyer, the California-based donor who helped Gillum secure his primary victory, said he would consider spending more than the \$5 million he had already allocated for the governor's contest here.

"Florida is going to be the most significant state in the country in 2018, which I wouldn't have said before yesterday," Steyer said.

PATRICIA MAZZEI
and JONATHAN MARTIN

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

EPA-18-0426-A-000002

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Professor Arrested After Wife's Body Found in Suitcase

HONG KONG — A professor at the University of Hong Kong was charged with murder Wednesday after the body of his wife was found inside a suitcase at his office, the police said.

The arrest of the professor, whose name was not released by the police, comes as Hong Kong is transfixed by the trial of another professor accused of killing his wife and daughter with a carbon monoxide-filled yoga ball.

In the latest case, security footage showed the suspect hauling a box apparently with his wife's remains out of a student dormitory, where he lived as a faculty warden with his wife and children, the police said.

The professor had filed a missing persons report more than a week ago, saying that his wife had gone missing the morning of Aug. 17 after a family dispute overnight. But the police grew suspicious when they did not find footage of his wife leaving their building.

On Tuesday morning, the professor sent an email to students at the residence hall, apologizing for the presence of police officers.

"They are here to investigate a missing person case involving my family," he wrote. "There is nothing to worry about among the students."

That evening, the police raided the professor's office at the University of Hong Kong. When they opened the box, they found the suitcase that contained what they believed was his wife's body.

"There was blood seeping out of the suitcase," Law Kwok-hoi, a police superintendent, said on Tuesday. The body had begun to smell and an electrical wire was tied around her neck, he said.

The police believe the victim was strangled, and an autopsy was planned to officially determine the cause of her death. The police said Wednesday that he was charged with one count of murder.

While the police withheld the suspect's name, the South China Morning Post, The Associated Press and other news media outlets reported that the police had arrested Cheung Kie-chung, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Hong Kong, in connection with the killing.

TIFFANY MAY

French and British Boats Clash in 'Scallop War'

LONDON — It's been called the "scallop war" — a simmering rivalry that spilled out into the open again this week when French and British vessels clashed in the English Channel, French fishermen tossed what appeared to be smoke bombs at their rivals, and the British called on the Royal Navy for protection.

Video footage on French state television and on social media showed about 35 small French fishing boats menacing five larger British vessels early Tuesday morning in a stretch of international waters that separates Britain from the rest of Europe, just off the northwest coast of France.

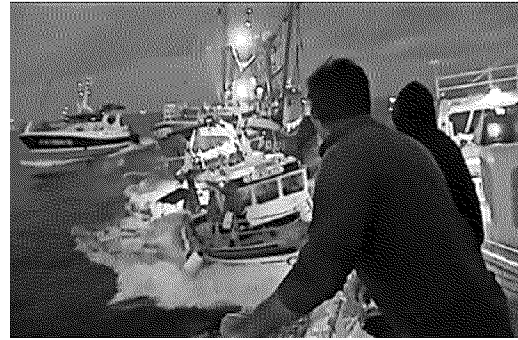
At least one French boat slammed into the side of a Scottish vessel.

A French official said no one had been injured in the clash, but called the encounter "extremely dangerous."

The French argue that British fishing vessels have an unfair advantage. The French government does not allow fishing for scallops to begin until October, in order to preserve the stock.

But the British have no such restrictions. Large boats from as far as Scotland visit these waters every year in hopes of making a good catch, within fishing quotas.

Dimitry Rogoff, head of the regional fisheries committee in Nor-



TV/REUTERS

mandy, France, told The Guardian newspaper, "For the Brits, it's an open bar — they fish when they want, where they want, and as much as they want."

"We don't want to stop them from fishing," he added, "but they could at least wait until Oct. 1 so that we can share." He was not immediately available for comment on Wednesday.

The French vessels set out from the Normandy ports of Port-en-Bessin, Courseulles, Ouistreham, Trouville, Honfleur and Le Havre to chase British boats away from the Baie de la Seine, where the seabed is rich in scallops.

One video showed two smaller French boats navigating close to a larger Scottish vessel, with one slamming into its side. (A Scottish ship and its owner were convicted last November of catching scal-

French and British fishing boats collided in a simmering rivalry in the English Channel over scallop fishing rights on Tuesday.

lops smaller than the permitted minimum size, and ordered to pay a total of around \$37,300.)

Video posted by the master of the French boat showed smoke or steam rising from the larger vessel. The French state television network France 3 said it appeared smoke bombs had been thrown.

"There were some fairly strong clashes," Lt. Ingrid Parrot, the spokeswoman for the French regional maritime authority, said by phone on Wednesday.

"This kind of event is extremely dangerous at sea," she said, adding that the authorities would remain vigilant for signs of flare-ups.

Britain's National Federation of Fishermen's Organizations said it had asked the Royal Navy for protection, since the vessels were operating in the waters legally.

PALKO KARASZ

In Brief

Meeting With Kim Is Called Urgent

President Moon Jae-in of South Korea sees an urgent need to travel to North Korea next month and meet with its leader, Kim Jong-un, now that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip this week has been canceled, Moon's office said on Wednesday. North and South Korea had earlier agreed to hold a third summit meeting between Kim and Moon in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, next month. But Moon had hoped Pompeo would break a logjam in talks over denuclearizing the North, making it easier for him to push his agenda of increasing economic and other inter-Korean ties when he sat down with Kim. Moon's plan was cast into doubt after President Trump last Friday abruptly canceled Pompeo's trip. But on Wednesday, Moon's office said he was intent on working as a mediator between Kim and Trump.

(NYT)

Russia Pension Changes Softened

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Wednesday took the rare step of softening a government decision in the face of public pressure, diluting some parts of a much-despised pension overhaul that

had prompted protests and dented his popularity. Even as he announced the changes, Putin reiterated that demographic changes in Russia — particularly older adults living well past retirement age, while fewer young people are entering the work force — required some adjustments. Putin warned that mushrooming costs now at \$300 million per day could bankrupt Russia.

(NYT)

Erdogan Statue Removed in Germany

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey has the ability to provoke in art as well as in life. Less than 28 hours after the Biennale art festival in the western German city of Wiesbaden set up a statue of the Turkish leader in a public square bearing the name "German Unity Place," the mayor had it pulled down late Tuesday night, citing security concerns. Sven Gerich, the mayor of Wiesbaden, a German city of about 275,000 people, said on Wednesday that he and the city authorities valued freedom of art and sought to protect it, but that the statue — standing 13 feet tall — had crossed a line. The statue, which went up Monday and was to have remained in place until Sunday, would not be reinstalled.

EPA-18-0426-A-000003

How McCain Got Last Word Against Trump

WASHINGTON — Not long after Sen. John McCain learned of his terminal brain cancer diagnosis last summer, he began convening meetings every Friday in his Capitol Hill office with a group of trusted aides. The subject was his funeral.

The Arizona senator obsessed over the music, selecting the Irish ballad “Danny Boy” and several patriotic hymns. He choreographed the movement of his coffin, from his home state to Washington. And in April, when he knew the end was coming, he began reaching out to Republicans, Democrats and even a Russian dissident with requests that they deliver eulogies and serve as pallbearers.

By the time he died last Saturday, McCain had carefully stage-managed a four-day celebration of his life — but also an unmistakable rebuke to President Trump and his agenda. For years, Trump had used Twitter and the presidential bully pulpit to mock

and condemn McCain. In death, he found a way to have the last word, even quietly making it clear through friends that Trump was not welcome at the services.

“I think it’s fair to say that they have a very different view of this country and what this country means, here and abroad,” said Mark Salter, a longtime friend and co-author who sat with McCain during the many discussions about his looming death and how to mark it. “His overall message was: ‘It doesn’t have to be this shitty.’”

The series of events honoring McCain represent the kind of grandiose spectacle that is normally reserved for someone who became president, not someone who twice failed to do so.

The week’s memorial events began on Wednesday when his body was brought to lie in state at the Arizona State Capitol. The procession is scheduled to shift to the nation’s capital on Thursday, when McCain’s coffin is to arrive just as Trump is holding one of his

campaign-style rallies in Indiana.

By the weekend, when virtually all of official Washington gathers at the National Cathedral for a nationally televised farewell, Trump is expected to retreat to Camp David, where White House aides hope he will contain his anger at the attention being lavished on McCain, even in death.

McCain’s closest friends insisted this week that the senator did not harbor personal anger toward the president, even at the end. They described the senator as mostly interested in promoting the cause of bipartisanship and compromise that the “maverick” lawmaker had carefully fashioned into one of the most durable political brands in the last half-century.

“He wanted to reinforce his message that there is more that unites us than separates us,” said Steve Duprey, a New Hampshire businessman who was one of senator’s closest friends.

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
and KATIE ROGERS

In Brief

Manafort Asks to Move Trial to Virginia Court

Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort asked Wednesday to move his upcoming trial out of Washington to Roanoke, Va., with his lawyers citing “intensely negative news coverage” and potential juror bias. “While federal courts often address issues of pretrial publicity in high-profile cases, it is difficult to conceive of a matter that has received media attention of the same magnitude as the prosecution of Mr. Manafort,” the lawyers wrote. The request is similar to the one his team made last month before Manafort was tried on a different set of charges in Alexandria, Va. The trial judge refused to send that case to Roanoke, and jurors found Manafort guilty of eight counts. Jury selection in the District of Columbia is to start Sept. 17 in a trial related to Manafort’s Ukrainian lobbying and consulting work. (AP)

DeVos Plans to Reshape Sexual Misconduct Rules

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is preparing new policies on campus sexual misconduct that would bolster the rights of students accused of assault, harassment or rape, lessen liability for institutions of higher education and encourage schools to provide more support for victims.

The proposed rules, obtained by The New York Times, narrow the definition of sexual harassment, holding schools accountable only for formal complaints filed through proper authorities and for conduct said to have occurred on their campuses. They would also establish a higher le-

gal standard to determine whether schools improperly addressed complaints.

The new rules would come at a particularly sensitive time, as major institutions such as Ohio State University, the University of Southern California and Michigan State University deal with explosive charges that members of their faculty and staff have perpetrated serious sexual misconduct. But for several years, higher education administrators have maintained that sexual misconduct rules pressed by the Obama administration unnecessarily burdened them with bureaucratic mandates that had little to do

with assault or harassment, and men’s rights groups have said the accused have had little recourse.

Unlike the Obama administration’s guidance documents, the Trump administration’s new rules will have the force of law and can go into force without an act of Congress, after a public comment period.

Liz Hill, an Education Department spokeswoman, said on Wednesday that the department was “in the midst of a deliberative process.” She added that any information obtained by The Times “is premature and speculative, and therefore, we have no comment.” ERICAL GREEN

Soldier Pleads Guilty

A soldier based in Hawaii pleaded guilty Wednesday to trying to help the Islamic State group, telling a judge he provided secret military information, a drone meant to track U.S. troops and other support to undercover agents he believed were members of the terrorist organization. Sgt. 1st Class Ikaika Kang, 35, spoke in a clear voice when he told a U.S. magistrate judge he is guilty of all four counts against him. He agreed when Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Sorenson described other support he provided to undercover agents Kang believed were part of the Islamic State group. (AP)

Trump Says China Undermines Diplomacy With N. Korea

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Wednesday tried to make China the scapegoat for his stalled diplomacy with North Korea, accusing it of undermining the American-led pressure campaign against Pyongyang because of an escalating trade dispute with the United States.

In a series of late-afternoon tweets, issued under the headline “Statement From the White House,” Trump said China was

shipping “money, fuel, fertilizer and various other commodities” to North Korea.

“This is not helpful!” he added, consistently referring to himself in the third person.

Yet at the same time, Trump reaffirmed his decision in June to suspend joint military exercises with South Korea, saying they were costly and unnecessary, given his warm relationship with North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un.

While it was difficult to decipher the strategy behind the tweets, the president appeared in part to be trying to dial back remarks made by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who opened the door on Tuesday to resuming the exercises.

A Defense Department official said news reports that interpreted Mattis’s remarks as contradictory to the president’s angered the White House. (NYT)

Storm Death in Hawaii

Officials are reporting the first death associated with a powerful storm that initially threatened Hawaii as a hurricane. Kauai County officials said Wednesday that firefighters pulled the body of a 30-year-old man from a Koloa stream. Police identified him as local resident Joshua Bradbury. He was found Tuesday after a resident called 911 saying he saw Bradbury jump into the stream and float away. Police say Bradbury was apparently trying to save a dog. (AP)

EPA-18-0426-A-000004

Canada and U.S. Optimistic on Nafta Accord

The United States and Canada are moving closer to resolving their trade differences and could reach a deal by the end of the week that keeps the three-country North American Free Trade Agreement intact.

Both countries are under pressure to find a way to keep Nafta intact and to avoid the United States and Mexico from moving ahead without Canada, as President Trump has threatened. Republican lawmakers are warning the White House that a bilateral deal will not pass congressional muster, while industry groups said a Nafta without Canada would take a significant economic toll.

In an appearance in front of reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday, Trump said that he was optimistic that the Canadians would soon become a part of an expanded deal made earlier in the week with Mexico.

"Right now we call it the U.S.-Mexico trade agreement and we'll see whether or not Canada get into it," the president said. "I think it's probably not going to be good at all if they don't."

In what he said was a hint to the country's willingness to join the new trade deal, Trump said he'd spoken to Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada, by phone the night before. "Hey, he called me," the president said. "I didn't call him."



ANDREW HARNIK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Wednesday, Chrystia Freeland, Canada's foreign minister, expressed optimism that the talks were moving in a positive direction and said that Canadian and American officials were working intensely to try to resolve remaining differences.

"Mexico has made some significant concessions which will be really good for Canadian workers," Freeland said. "On that basis, we are optimistic about having some really good productive conversations this week."

Asked if the negotiations were nearing completion, Freeland said: "You're tempting me to say something Churchillian — is this the end of the beginning, is this the beginning of the end? Let me just say a lot has been accomplished."

The agreement appears to be giving the United States much of what it has been demanding

over the past year, particularly related to automobiles. Mexican officials have essentially agreed to limit imports of cars and car parts into the United States by accepting a deal that would impose punitive tariffs of up to 25 percent on imports that exceed a certain threshold, according to officials.

Mexican exports of cars and sport utility vehicles in excess of 2.4 million could be subject to the auto tariffs that Trump has threatened to impose as a matter of national security. The deal would also impose tariffs on Mexican exports of auto parts that exceed \$90 billion. Both figures are higher than Mexico's shipments to the United States last year, giving Mexico some ability to boost its exports. The quotas would apply to all Mexican cars and car parts.

ANA SWANSON
and ALAN RAPPEPORT

THE MARKETS

DJIA	NASDAQ	S&P 500
60.55 0.23%	79.65 0.99%	16.52 0.57%
26,124.57	8,109.69	2,914.04

EUROPE

BRITAIN	GERMANY	FRANCE
FTSE 100	DAX	CAC 40
54.01 0.71%	34.26 0.27%	16.34 0.30%
7,563.21	12,561.68	5,501.33

ASIA/PACIFIC

JAPAN	HONG KONG	CHINA
NIKKEI 225	HANG SENG	SHANGHAI
34.75 0.15%	64.82 0.23%	8.69 0.31%
22,848.22	28,416.44	2,769.30

AMERICAS

CANADA	BRAZIL	MEXICO
TSX	BOVESPA	BOLSA
34.75 0.21%	456.50 0.59%	163.50 0.33%
16,390.29	77,473.18	50,187.48

COMMODITIES/BONDS

GOLD	10-YR. TREAS. YIELD	CRUDE OIL
2.90 \$1,204.50	0.01 2.89%	0.98 \$69.51

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

	Fgn. currency in Dollars	Dollars in fgn. currency
Australia (Dollar)	.7308	1.3684
Bahrain (Dinar)	2.6527	.3770
Brazil (Real)	.2435	4.1065
Britain (Pound)	1.3024	.7678
Canada (Dollar)	.7751	1.2902
China (Yuan)	.1466	6.8190
Denmark (Krone)	.1570	6.3691
Dom. Rep. (Peso)	.0200	49.9800
Egypt (Pound)	.0561	17.8400
Europe (Euro)	1.1702	.8546
Hong Kong (Dollar)	.1274	7.8485
Japan (Yen)	.0090	111.65
Mexico (Peso)	.0528	18.9504
Norway (Krone)	.1201	8.3290
Singapore (Dollar)	.7330	1.3643
So. Africa (Rand)	.0697	14.3400
So. Korea (Won)	.0009	1109.6
Sweden (Krona)	.1095	9.1362
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0304	.9705

Source: Thomson Reuters

Tariffs on Canadian Newsprint Are Overturned

WASHINGTON — The United States International Trade Commission on Wednesday overturned a Trump administration decision to impose tariffs on Canadian newsprint, saying that American paper producers are not harmed by newsprint imports.

The unanimous decision by the five-member body eliminates tariffs that have been in effect since January, handing a win to small and medium-size newspapers, which have struggled to absorb the cost of higher newsprint and have made cuts as a result.

The Commerce Department imposed tariffs as high as 20 percent on newsprint from Canada after North Pacific Paper Company, a paper mill in Washington State, filed a complaint alleging that subsidies the Canadian government provides to its manufacturers put American paper com-

panies at a disadvantage.

The commission, which is an American government agency that reviews unfair trade practices, said in a statement that it "determined that a U.S. industry is not materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada."

Details of the commission's findings will be published by Oct. 8, the statement said.

The decision will allow Canadian paper providers to stop paying tariffs that had already caused widespread damage in the struggling newspaper industry.

Dozens of regional newspapers across the country have cut staff, reduced the numbers of days they printed and, in some cases, closed.

Andrew Johnson, the president of the National Newspaper

Association, a group of about 2,300 community newspapers, cheered the decision and said he was thankful that "the commissioners did the right thing."

But "there is a lot of damage that has been done," added Johnson, who is also the owner and publisher of three weekly newspapers in Wisconsin.

"It is our hope that some progress will be made toward restoring the page counts and news coverage among the weekly newspapers," he said.

The decision by the commission deals a blow to the North Pacific Paper Company, which filed a complaint last year arguing that dumped and subsidized imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada were depressing prices and eroding profitability.

CATIE EDMONDSON
and ALAN RAPPEPORT

ONLINE: MORE PRICES AND ANALYSIS

Information on all United States stocks, plus bonds, mutual funds, commodities and foreign stocks along with analysis of industry sectors and stock indexes:
nytimes.com/markets

EPA-18-0426-A-000005

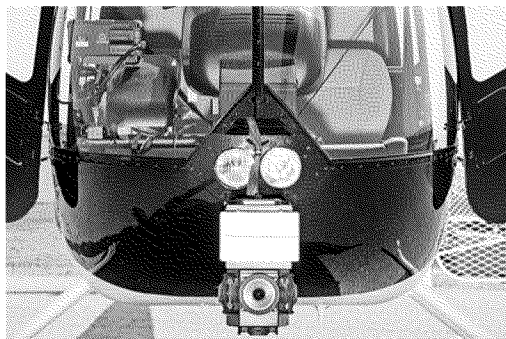
Silicon Valley Takes a Step Away From Pilots

TRACY, Calif. — Last week, at a tiny airport in the dusty flatlands east of San Francisco, a red-and-white helicopter lifted gently into the air, hovering a few feet over the tarmac. It looked like any other helicopter, except for the small black cube attached to its nose.

Local officials spent the week testing this aircraft for a new emergency service, due for launch in January, that will respond to 911 calls via the air. But as this helicopter moves police officers and medical workers over the San Joaquin Valley, it will feed a more ambitious project. That black cube is part of a growing effort to build small passenger aircraft that can fly on their own.

Today, the helicopter is flown by seasoned pilots. But the new emergency service will be operated by SkyRyse, a Silicon Valley start-up that intends to augment small helicopters and other passenger aircraft with hardware and software that allow for autonomous flight, leaning on many of the same technologies that power driverless cars, including the 360-degree cameras and radar sensors built into the nose of the aircraft.

"There are many things that must come to fruition before autonomous aircraft start flying people," said Mark Groden, a co-founder and the chief executive of SkyRyse. "But we are de-



JASON HENRY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

veloping the technology that can take us there."

Sikorsky, a subsidiary of the defense contractor Lockheed Martin, and Xwing, another Silicon Valley start-up, are fashioning similar technology. Others, including Aurora, a company owned by Boeing, are exploring autonomous flight as they build a new kind of electrical aircraft for "flying taxi services." The initial plan for Uber's air taxi service, which it hopes to start in five to 10 years, said it would eventually remove pilots from the aircraft.

The motivation is obvious: Pilots are expensive, and they need rest between flights. Autonomous flight can drive new kinds of passenger services or even change the economics of airlines. As companies like Aurora build aircraft for autonomous flight, entrepre-

A new flying ambulance service will use small helicopters outfitted with tech that could eventually let them fly autonomously.

neurs like Groden believe that adapting aircraft is more realistic. But any path will take a while, for technical and cultural reasons.

"This is not just about building something that can fly by itself," said Dan Patt, the chief executive of the robotics company Vecna, who previously worked on autonomous flying with Sikorsky and other companies while he was at Darpa, a research arm of the Defense Department. "It is about building a body of evidence that this is a safe way to fly."

The biggest hurdle may be convincing regulators and the public that autonomous flight is safe.

"There are a lot of start-ups doing this," said Igor Cherepinsky, director of autonomy programs at Sikorsky. "Quite a few of them are naïve about what it will take."

CADE METZ

POWERED BY
THOMSON REUTERS

MOST ACTIVE, GAINERS AND LOSERS

Stock (Ticker)	Close	Chg	% chg	Volume (100)
10 MOST ACTIVE				
AMD (AMD)	25.20	+0.15	+0.6	1428089
GE (GE)	12.97	+0.21	+1.6	476302
BoFAML (BAC)	31.14	-0.13	-0.4	462028
Cronos (CRON)	12.74	+1.66	+15.0	409706
FordMo (F)	9.97	-0.04	-0.4	372170
Micron (MU)	51.83	-0.51	-1.0	313435
Affirm (AFMD)	6.15	+0.60	+10.8	275997
Apple (AAPL)	222.98	+3.28	+1.5	270513
HPE (HPE)	16.71	-0.03	-0.2	252896
AT&T (T)	32.23	-0.44	-1.3	250522

Stock (Ticker)	Close	Chg	% chg	Volume (100)
10 TOP GAINERS				
Glauco (GKOS)	62.86	+18.06	+40.3	110873
Opiant (OPNT)	21.43	+5.77	+36.8	11432
GreenP (GRNQ)	7.55	+1.75	+30.1	269
Tiray (TLRY)	62.13	+10.63	+20.6	180282
Galect (GALT)	5.38	+0.81	+17.7	10624
Evolus (EOLS)	23.80	+3.57	+17.6	12313
Zynerb (ZYNE)	8.00	+1.20	+17.6	25825
Rumble (RMBL)	7.75	+1.04	+15.5	4428
Cronos (CRON)	12.74	+1.66	+15.0	409707
Kiniks (KNSA)	21.50	+2.50	+13.2	715

Stock (Ticker)	Close	Chg	% chg	Volume (100)
10 TOP LOSERS				
Movado (MOV)	41.80	-7.60	-15.4	13388
ScanSo (SCSC)	37.65	-5.50	-12.7	4397
Assert (ASRT)	6.52	-0.81	-11.0	39146
Box (BOX)	23.70	-2.91	-10.9	192015
Arlot (ARLO)	19.04	-1.84	-8.8	14063
Allian (AOI)	16.05	-1.55	-8.8	3610
Bridge (BPI)	11.79	-1.00	-7.8	3416
Ramaco (METC)	7.86	-0.64	-7.5	3360
Kewaun (KEQU)	31.40	-2.37	-7.0	205
Fossil (FOSL)	22.37	-1.68	-7.0	69609

Source: Thomson Reuters

Stocks on the Move

Stocks that moved substantially or traded heavily Wednesday:

PulteGroup Inc., down 11 cents to \$28.33. The National Association of Realtors said fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in July.

Amazon.com Inc., up \$65.28 to \$1,998.10. Morgan Stanley analysts put out a positive report on the online retailer.

Dick's Sporting Goods Inc., down 79 cents to \$35.60. The sporting goods retailer announced weak quarterly sales.

Chico's FAS Inc., down 36 cents to \$8.47. The clothing chain's second-quarter profit and sales fell short of analyst projections.

Shoe Carnival Inc., up \$4.83 to \$41.74. The footwear retailer raised its annual forecasts after a strong second quarter, and said back-to-school sales are off to a good start.

Yum China Holdings Inc., up \$2.06 to \$39.23. The Wall Street Journal reported that a group of investors offered to buy the company for \$17.6 billion.

Roku Inc., down \$3.07 to \$59.92. The Information reported that Amazon is planning to offer a free video service through its Fire TVs.

Alphabet Inc., up \$18.79 to \$1,264.65. Technology stocks were among the day's best performers. (AP)

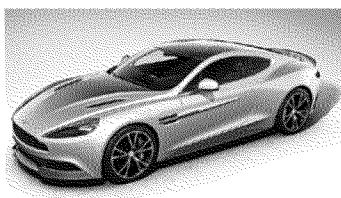
James Bond's Carmaker of Choice Will Go Public

LONDON — Aston Martin, the British automaker best known for being James Bond's car brand of choice, said on Wednesday that it planned to go public.

The potential offering would mark a turnaround for the once-troubled company, which has filed for bankruptcy seven times over its century-long history and passed from owner to owner, including Ford Motor.

A stock sale would also plant Aston Martin's flag in the markets as an independent, publicly traded British carmaker as its home country heads toward divorce from the European Union.

The plans for an offering signal a belief that even after Brexit, Aston Martin's luxury sports cars and sedans will appeal to deep-pocketed auto buyers worldwide. In a regulatory filing, the company specifically said it stood to benefit from growth



ASTON MARTIN, VIA REUTERS

Aston Martin's new Centenary Edition Vanquish.

in "high-net-worth individuals" worldwide, particularly in Asia.

"Aston Martin Lagonda has been transformed into a luxury business focused on creating the world's most beautiful high-performance cars," Andy Palmer, Aston Martin's chief executive, said in a statement.

The company's main draw is its history as one of Britain's most revered makers of lustworthy automobiles. Its most famous cus-

tomaker was the superspy 007, who drove Aston Martins that fired machine guns, featured ejector seats and on at least one occasion turned invisible across 11 movies. (Regrettably, they rarely came back in one piece.)

Underpinning Aston Martin's aspirations is a business plan focused on Bond-esque speedsters and, through a reintroduction of its Lagonda brand, a line of luxury electric S.U.V.s and sedan cars.

In its regulatory filing on Wednesday, Aston Martin said that its adjusted pretax earnings for the first half of the year rose 14 percent from a year earlier, to 106 million pounds, or \$137 million. Sales during the period grew 8 percent from a year earlier, to £445 million.

The company said that it expected to produce up to 7,300 cars next year and up to 9,800 cars in 2020. MICHAEL J. de la MERCED

Perfect Skin May Be Linked to Your Tummy

Three years ago, Danielle Fleming, a real estate agent in Hoboken, N.J., started suffering persistent acne around her jawline. She had “ugly, weird pimples,” she

SKIN DEEP

Courtney Rubin

said. After switching detergents, hair spray and anything else she could think of, she went

to a dermatologist to ask about a prescription for Accutane or maybe a laser treatment. What she left with was a diet.

It took Fleming, 43, two years to adhere to the gut-changing diet suggested by Whitney Bowe, a dermatologist in New York. The diet, set forth in Bowe's book, “The Beauty of Dirty Skin,” is essentially low-glycemic foods along with bacteria-rich fermented ones. It is meant to alter the trillions-strong population of gastrointestinal microorganisms, quelling inflammation, including skin-related outbreaks.

But Fleming, a confessed sugar addict, was reluctant to give up her artificially sweetened yogurt and her bulk candy store habit, and she hoped that following bits of the diet inconsistently would be enough.

Finally she gave in.

“I haven't had a breakout since,” Fleming said. “And people ask me all the time what I'm doing to my skin.”

Fixing the gut microbiome has been linked to a wide range of health benefits (it may, according to some studies, help lower incidence of cancer, strokes and obesity), and much of skin care, the beauty category most affected by wellness trends, is now focused on the gut as the secret to complexion perfection.

So comes a wave of designer probiotic pills and powders — stylishly packaged, with names like Glow and Inner Beauty — that suggest they can do a lot of the heavy lifting of that gut fixing for you.

Consider: The Beauty Chef, an Australian company founded by a former beauty editor, offers seven probiotic-laced products that occasionally sell out on Net-a-Porter and Goop. Earlier this year, the makeup guru Bobbi Brown introduced no-water-needed lemon-flavored probiotic “pixie sticks” in her Evolution 18 wellness line.

Sonya Dakar, a facialist, sells a

probiotic called simply Acidophilus Flora.

Rose-Marie Swift, the makeup artist who is known for creating glowy skin on Kate Bosworth, Gisele Bündchen and Miranda Kerr, recently introduced probiotic supplements under her RMS beauty brand, inspired partly by her relative lack of success getting models to eat foods with live cultures.

“You'd get these beautiful models, and they'd have really bad skin,” said Swift, who, because of a long-ago illness, has been preaching probiotics and safer cosmetics for years before either was trendy. “I'd tell them to eat fermented foods, but nobody does.”

Net-a-Porter now offers 12 brands of ingestible probiotics for skin, up from one, and Newby Hands, the beauty director at the company, said via email that it's one of its fastest growing categories, with double-digit growth each year.

“In London and Los Angeles we are seeing that some supplements are outselling serums and other formerly top-selling products,” Hands said.

The Suitcase Of the Summer

Save for Louis Vuitton steamer trunks, luggage has never had a particularly sexy connotation. (Recall Holden Caulfield complaining about his Gladstones banging the hell out of his legs.) The 1 percent of yore hired people to carry their belongings, and some celebrities still glide through airports with nary a suitcase in sight.

But about a year ago, amid the sea of black polyester-nylon that dominates most airports, I started noticing something new: sleek, colorful, grooved hard-shell rolling suitcases with built-in chargers.

They're made by Away, a two-year-old luggage start-up with \$81 million of investment.

Fans include Rashida Jones, Karlie Kloss and Dwyane Wade, all of whom have designed limited editions with the company.

In December, at an airport in India, I saw a woman fight back tears when a gate agent told her that she might have to check her Away carry-on, owing to overhead compartments that were more compact than average.

In April, at Away's light-filled store in West Hollywood, I watched a woman storm in, demanding to know all the colors the carry-on came in because she wanted to add something “fresh” to the navy and black pieces she owned.

Cults have formed around merchandise like face cream and butt-lifting leggings. But rolling suitcases?

“Sometimes, when I really miss my luggage but I have no place to go, I'll just open up my luggage on the floor and fill it,” said Shelley Bazemore, 60, a counterintelligence analyst in Maryland who served 21 years in the Army.

After reading about Away online and researching “like I was researching for a doctorate,” she bought six Away suitcases and half a dozen personal items.

Away's suitcases range from \$190, for a child-size carry-on, to \$595, for a large aluminum check-in.

Its most popular suitcase is the \$245 “bigger” carry-on, which comes with an ejectable lithium-ion battery for charging smartphones, tablets and other USB-cord-addled devices.

SHEILA MARIKAR

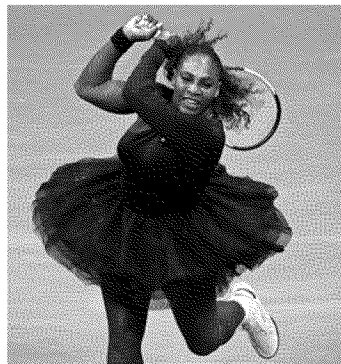
It's 2018. So What's the Point of the Tennis Dress?

Once again the issue of dress code has reared its ugly head in the work space. The latest brouhaha, of course, was the tempest in a tennis racket over the catsuit Serena Williams wore to the French Open, which apparently didn't sufficiently “respect the game” for Bernard Giudicelli, the president of the French Tennis Federation. Cue a social media spike of outrage and eloquence over the “policing of women's bodies,” as Billie Jean King tweeted.

But as the U.S. Open kicked off in the shadow of that scene, I can't help but wonder if we are all missing the forest for the tree. Because pondering the catsuit hoo-ha has raised another, broader question.

Why, in 2018, when performance garments are practically a science unto themselves, sneakers a designer staple and gender-fluid clothes a reality, are female tennis players still going through the motions of wearing a little flap of fabric around the hips in order to suggest a dress?

Just consider the Nike looks on Simona Halep (who lost in the



JASON SZENES/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

Serena Williams at the U.S. Open wearing Virgil Abloh.

first round) and on the defending champion, Sloane Stephens. Both “dresses” had draped skirts slit to the waist, which played peekaboo with the patterned compression shorts underneath. When the women are in motion, as they most often are on the court, the slit has the effect of turning the “dress” into something that most resembles a peplum top. Or a long shirt.

And it's not just Nike, but also Adidas's color-blocked Stella McCartney styles and Fila's star-spangled heritage looks, to name a few other U.S. Open fashion debuts. They barely even qualify as tunics.

There are exceptions, of course. Williams's Virgil Abloh for Nike asymmetric tulle tutu and Maria Sharapova's LBD with strategic back cutouts were cut into recognizable cocktail silhouettes.

But the general effect is of a notional dress. Which is to say, a garment that once had a purpose — cloaking the female athlete in the socially acceptable markings of her gender so her power was somehow less threatening — but serves it no longer. The dresses — or dress gestures — may be a nod to history. But they also seem like shadows of older stereotypes. And such goals can also be achieved by other decorative means and materials as Nike has shown with Williams's catsuit, and, as fashion has long known.

It's time we served those up.

VANESSA FRIEDMAN

When Racing Pigeons Caught a Bullet Train, Some Cried Foul

BEIJING — If you ever try to cheat in a pigeon race, just remember this: Bullet trains travel much faster than homing pigeons.

Two men who tried to rig a bird race in China — and claim \$160,000 in prize money — have learned that lesson the hard way. Both have been convicted of criminal fraud. Their pigeons did not survive.

Homing pigeon races are a sport dating back at least to the 1800s. The pigeons are raised in lofts, then taken hundreds of miles away and released. The first pigeon to fly home to its loft wins.

Pigeons have been clocked at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour for short stretches, and more than 80 m.p.h. for hundreds of miles.

Their speed and endurance have made it hard for people to cheat, even by smuggling a pigeon by car to a finish line. But China, where pigeon-racing remains popular, has been feverishly building a high-speed rail network, with trains that can travel at nearly 200 m.p.h.

A Shanghai court announced this week that it had convicted two men of using fraud to win the Shanghai Pigeon Association's annual Grand Prix. The court sentenced each man to three years in prison, but suspended the sentences so that they only have to report to a jail if convicted in another crime.

The rules of the Grand Prix call for pigeons to be raised in a Shanghai pigeon loft until the age of 1. For the race, the yearling birds are

released from Shangqiu in Henan Province, which is 462 miles northwest of Shanghai by road, or 405 miles as the pigeon flies.

The two men came up with a scheme almost rivaling Mark Twain's famous short story of a rigged animal race in Northern California, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." But the pigeon plot did not work.

The essence of the plan involved training the pigeons to believe they had two homes. The birds had been secretly raised not just in Shanghai but also in Shangqiu.

When the race was held in the spring of last year, the Shanghai Pigeon Association took all the entrants from Shanghai to Shangqiu and released them. Most of the pigeons started flying back to Shanghai. But the four specially raised pigeons flew instead to their second home in Shangqiu. According to the court, the two men caught the birds there and then carried them on a bullet train back to Shanghai, concealed in milk cartons.

When the men arrived in Shanghai, they released the pigeons, which quickly fluttered to their Shanghai loft, seemingly winning the race. But then the trouble started.

The men had released the birds too soon, shattering records for the race. Driving from Shangqiu to Shanghai, a distance roughly equal to New York City to Raleigh, N.C., takes nearly eight hours, and racing pigeons usually take almost as long. But the bullet train takes as little as three hours and 18 minutes.

Other pigeon racers cried foul.

Shi Bin, a lawyer at Shanghai Runshen law firm who represented both men, said that the court had shown lenience in suspending the sentences because his clients had turned themselves in and confessed as soon as other pigeon racers challenged the result, and before the police opened a formal investigation.

According to the Shanghai court, the two men destroyed the evidence, smashing the pigeons against the ground to kill them.

KEITH BRADSHER

CROSSWORD Edited by Will Shortz

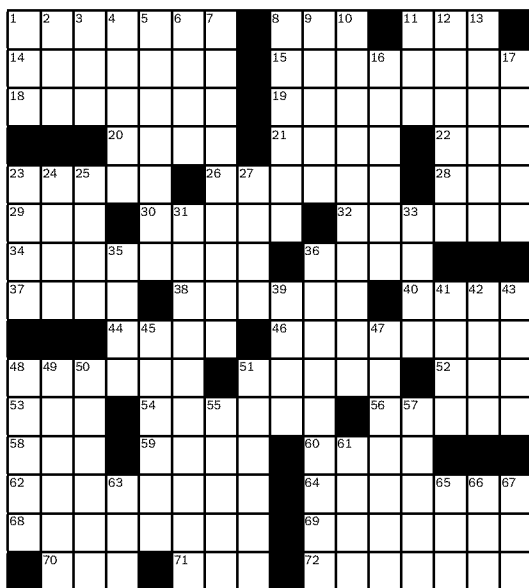
PUZZLE BY GRANT THACKRAY

ACROSS

- 1 Classic video game hero a.k.a. the Blue Bomber
- 8 Word after "be" or "end"
- 11 Light lunch choice
- 14 Seeing someone, say
- 15 Like the services of many financial planners
- 18 Class that doesn't require in-person attendance
- 19 Place in 1861 news, for short
- 20 Abbr. on a college entrance sign
- 21 Neighbor of N.Z.
- 22 'Fore
- 23 Temporary, as a store
- 26 "Let's go to the next one"
- 28 Dorm V.I.P.s
- 29 Genre for Panic! at the Disco
- 30 Pinker, say
- 32 Biases
- 34 Place for pilots
- 36 Dorm V.I.P.
- 37 Like zombies
- 38 Program for reducing litter on highways
- 40 Lines
- 44 Ignore, with "out"
- 46 Ride taken for a spin?
- 48 Bother
- 51 Real stunner
- 52 It borders B.C.
- 53 Magic, on scoreboards
- 54 Movie camera settings
- 56 Casey who voiced Shaggy
- 58 Pot leaves?
- 59 Some brewery offerings, in brief
- 60 Regain hit points, in video games
- 62 Part of a pope's title
- 64 Popular browser extension ... or a literal description of four black squares in this puzzle
- 68 Stretch
- 69 Common fish in aquaculture
- 70 Number 2 or 6
- 71 Playwright

DOWN

- 1 Trim, in a way
- 2 Phoenix-to-Albuquerque dir.



8/30/18

- 3 Yak
- 4 Word akin to sayonara
- 5 Annoyance from a subway seatmate
- 6 Rat-_____
- 7 Crunchy candy with a gummy string center
- 8 Dalliance
- 9 Go easier
- 10 Philosophy of simplicity
- 11 Yosemite _____
- 12 Rudderward
- 13 Watch wolfishly
- 16 Whole lot, slangily
- 17 Speak to
- 23 Home of the oldest university in the Western Hemisphere (founded in 1551)
- 24 Home of a sultan
- 25 Polliwog's place
- 27 Held on to
- 31 Performing flawlessly
- 33 Nonprofit org. since 1920
- 35 Understands
- 36 High-ranking officers
- 39 Put _____ on (limit)
- 41 Ancient mother goddess
- 42 Sainted English historian
- 43 Roast
- 45 Doing grown-up things, in modern lingo
- 47 Endearingly awkward, in slang
- 48 Easily angered sort
- 49 Colored body part
- 50 Event that looks like its first letter?
- 51 Put in the trash
- 55 Lip-smacking
- 57 Bloom who wrote "The Closing of the American Mind"
- 61 Actress Falco
- 63 People whom it's helpful to know
- 65 Black _____
- 66 Secretive org.
- 67 King Arthur's foster brother

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

```

UNSEAL NEBR ACLU
SOCANI ELLA KHAN
DIAGNOSES ANDIEGO
ARNE NOD CRATE
REEF SKIMASKS
COUNTSTUCSON EEL
ONSETS BRET ACNE
OBESSE NOAA BRAKE
LADS LEAP BUCKET
ESC HASTENATHENS
REALISTS ARTE
ROYAL ASI NAME
SALVAGESLASVEGAS
OBOE NUTS TAMEST
BETS APSO ALYSSA
  
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EDITORIALS OF THE TIMES

GAIL COLLINS

The DeVos School for Promoting Debt

Say this for Betsy DeVos: The secretary of education has shown an impressive commitment to rescuing her friends in the for-profit college business from pesky measures to rein in their predatory behavior. As pet projects go, it lacks the sulfurous originality of her emerging idea to let states use federal dollars to put guns in schools. But it is a scandal nonetheless. Given the choice between protecting low-income students and facilitating the buck-raking of a scandal-ridden industry, DeVos aggressively pursues Option B.

A couple of weeks back, her department formally introduced its plan to jettison so-called gainful employment rules. These 2014 regulations require that, to receive federal student-aid dollars, for-profit colleges must maintain a reasonable debt-to-income ratio among graduates. If a program's attendees typically rack up massive student debts and then cannot find decent jobs, the program is deemed a failure. Programs that fail in two out of three years become ineligible to receive the taxpayer-backed loans and grants with which so many students finance their schooling.

DeVos, delighting industry executives, promptly hit the pause button on these regulations upon assuming her post. Now the pending demise of the rules has been made official. DeVos contends the system capriciously targets the sector. She has had far less to say about the industry's eye-popping overrepresentation in fraud complaints. A recent review of "borrower defense claims" — requests for loan relief filed with the Education Department by students asserting they were defrauded or misled by their schools — found that almost 99 percent involved for-profit institutions.

In recent years, for-profit colleges have been swamped by lawsuits charging that they use deceptive marketing practices and high-pressure recruitment tactics to snooker students into taking on crippling debt in the pursuit of worthless degrees.

Dozens of additional programs have closed rather than attempt to meet the new accountability standards. Consumer advocates see this as evidence that the common-sense regulations are working. Industry executives, and DeVos, see it as proof that the Obama administration had it in for the sector.

Gainful employment rules are but a piece of the accountability puzzle that DeVos is looking to end. In late July, the department announced it was tightening rules governing the forgiveness of student loans, increasing the burden of proof on individuals to show they've been misled intentionally by their schools or that they've suffered grave financial hardship. DeVos has made clear her views of the forgiveness plan hammered out by the Obama administration — and of students seeking debt relief: "Under the previous rules, all one had to do was raise his or her hands to be entitled to so-called free money," she said.

DeVos insists she wants to root out bad actors as much as anyone. But if that were true, she probably wouldn't have dismantled the department's team tasked with investigating fraud at for-profit schools. She also might have opted not to end her department's information-sharing arrangement with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is among the agencies that regulates this industry.

This problem affects not just students taken in by the schools' false claims, but also taxpayers who foot the bill for defaulted student loans. By the Education Department's own figures, repealing the Obama-era rules will cost taxpayers \$5.3 billion over the next decade.

DeVos is a fan of using government money to fund private schools while demanding little accountability. It is no coincidence that she packed her department with aides with ties to for-profit colleges. One ex-industry executive, Robert Eitel, is a senior adviser who was involved in suspending the loan-forgiveness rules that are now being rewritten. Another hire, Julian Schmoke, is a former dean for the DeVry Education Group. Under President Barack Obama, DeVry was being investigated by the department's special fraud unit. The inquiry was abandoned shortly after President Trump took office in 2017, and, that summer, DeVos put Schmoke in charge of the unit. (Schmoke will, the department has assured the public, recuse himself from issues involving DeVry.)

Under DeVos, the department also has halted investigations into Bridgepoint Education and the Career Education Corporation. Former executives and counselors for those companies now hold senior positions at the department.

All of them, of course, work for Trump, whose namesake "university" eventually paid \$25 million to settle fraud claims of its own.

This is what happens when an administration stocks its agencies with people whose allegiances are to the industries they are meant to oversee. Trump's Environmental Protection Agency, for instance, has begun to resemble less a regulatory body than a convention of fossil-fuel fan boys.

Former administrator Scott Pruitt was an unabashed cheerleader for oil and gas. His replacement, Andrew Wheeler, is a former coal lobbyist. On Monday, he proposed a rollback of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which aimed to curb the release of greenhouse gases from power plants.

DeVos's plan to ax the gainful employment rules was entered into the Federal Register on Aug. 14, officially starting the 30-day period open to public comment on the proposed changes.

Barring an unforeseen twist, executives in the for-profit education industry will soon be sleeping better, secure in the knowledge that even the worst are no longer at risk of being thrown off their taxpayer-backed gravy train, no matter how epically they fail their students.

Swamp Things

I cannot think of a better time to talk about draining the swamp.

After all, we've got a president whose administration is setting records for boggy behavior.

People, what do you think inspired Donald Trump's promise to "drain the swamp" if elected? Do you think he repressed the whole matter of his tax returns? The hush money payments to Stormy and Company? He did say during his campaign that the swamp was the "entire corrupt Washington establishment," so maybe he presumed that slimy things occurring in New York or Florida didn't count.

But autumn is coming and the Democrats will be running on a neo-Drainage platform.

"The swamp has never been more foul or more fetid than under this president," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, when he and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi held a press conference on the steps of the Capitol to unveil a good-government agenda called "A Better Deal for Our Democracy."

On the reform front, Better Deal has a lot of pieces, like making it easier for people to register to vote, increasing the political power of small donors and stronger ethics guidelines.

Who could be against that? Well, somebody must, since they've never become law. Actually, anything that affects elections makes elected officials nervous. So it's important to show a lot of enthusiasm when these ideas come up.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren is pushing for an Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act. Her basic idea is to unravel some of the ties between the federal government and the corporate world that government is supposed to regulate. So you couldn't just leave Congress and go to work for a big financial or lobbying firm.

There's a lot of subsurface hostility to this in Congress. The members, who get around \$174,000 a year (plus benefits), frequently convince themselves they're making a great sacrifice that will pay off later when they return to the private sector. Some can't even wait that long, like Rep. Duncan Hunter of California.

He is the Republican who just got indicted for spending more than a quarter of a million dollars in campaign funds for personal items that included airplane fare for the family rabbit.

Polling in Hunter's district seems to suggest he can still get re-elected this fall. "A lot of his constituents say either 'fake news' or 'Let's wait for the trial and conviction,'" said Steven Erie, a professor emeritus at UC San Diego.

Hunter's district is very conservative. It's also very safe — he inherited the seat from his father. Pre-scandal, there weren't a lot of Democrats standing in line to run against him, and his opponent, Ammar Campa-Najjar, is a relative political newcomer. Cross your fingers and see if voters in a red district will be willing to take a stand against corruption and elect a Palestinian Mexican-American millennial to represent them in Washington.

Hey, stranger things have happened. For instance, Hunter's apparently paid back the \$600 he used for the rabbit's plane flight.

EPA-18-0426-A-000009

Stephens Beats Heat, and Mysterious Opponent

Sloane Stephens had her share of challenges on Wednesday in her second-round match at the United States Open. She labored with her serve. She fussed with a blister on her right palm. She coped with the oppressive heat.

And then there was her opponent, a 21-year-old qualifier from Ukraine named Anhelina Kalinina, who seemed almost impervious to the pressure and the elements.

Stephens, the defending women's champion and the third seed, survived with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory that required her to spend 2 hours 46 minutes baking in the midday sun at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Sometimes, it's not going to be the best," she said, "but you just have to battle through."

Nobody was immune from the conditions at the Open on Wednesday, with temperatures again hovering in the mid-90s and the tournament's extreme heat policy in effect.

Andy Murray and Fernando Verdasco toiled for 3 hours 23 minutes at Ashe Stadium. The last game alone lasted 18 points and more than 10 minutes. Murray saved two match points, but eventually succumbed, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In many ways, Murray resembled his old self. He screamed at himself — a lot. He bickered with the chair umpire. He tossed his racket in frustration. Parts of his game looked familiar, too, like his punishing ground strokes and his desire to win.

But about eight months removed from hip surgery, Murray again has found his comeback to be halting, full of peaks and valleys. Murray, a former world No. 1



ULI SEIT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sloane Stephens, the defending women's champion, defeated Anhelina Kalinina on Wednesday at the U.S. Open.

and three-time Grand Slam champion, entered the Open ranked 382nd and was playing his first tournament with a best-of-five-set format since returning to tour in June.

Venus Williams spared herself from a marathon by rallying from a break down in the second set to defeat Camila Giorgi, 6-4, 7-5.

Williams did her part to set up a potential third-round meeting with her sister Serena, who was set to face Carina Witthöft on Wednesday night in a second-round match. The Williams sisters have played each other 29 times, with Serena winning 17 of their matches.

"It's definitely a tough draw," said Venus Williams, who quickly got annoyed at her post-match news conference with a series of questions about her sister. "You're beating it up now. Any other questions about anything else?"

Stephens's opponent in the third round will be Victoria Azarenka, who advanced with a 6-1, 6-2 win over No. 25 seed Daria Gavrilova.

Stephens needed all of her stamina against Kalinina, who had arrived as a total mystery to

Stephens — and to pretty much everyone else who watched the match at Ashe. Kalinina was making her first main-draw appearance at a Grand Slam event after winning three matches in qualifying.

"I had literally never even seen her before," Stephens said. "Like, when I walked on court, I was like, 'O.K., that's who that is.' Obviously a bit different."

Against Kalinina, Stephens won just 56 percent of the points on her first serve and committed 42 unforced errors. Her game would mysteriously disappear, then reappear just in time to avert disaster. For example, she had a chance to serve for the second set, but was promptly broken by Kalinina. Stephens regrouped and proceeded to win the next two games to even the match.

Stephens had to change her outfit three times — she seldom changes her wardrobe even once during matches, she said — and a nasty blister opened on her right hand.

"It was flapping everywhere and real gross," she said. "But it's fine now." SCOTT CACCIOLA

In Brief

Luck Has Strong Outing

Andrew Luck got the Indianapolis offense in sync and led the Colts to a go-ahead touchdown. Five days after a mediocre performance in his first home start in more than 19 months, Luck looked sharper as the Colts hung on for a 23-17 home victory over San Francisco. Luck scrambled for a 15-yard run on third-and-13 then threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to a leaping Eric Ebron on the next play to give Indy a 7-3 lead midway with 8 minutes 47 seconds left in the first half. He completed 8 of 10 passes for 90 yards and took one sack.

(FIELD LEVEL MEDIA)

INSIDER TRADING CASE Cleveland Browns linebacker Mychal Kendricks has been charged with using insider trading tips to make about \$1.2 million in illegal profits on four major trading deals, federal prosecutors said. (AP)

A.L. SCORES

TUESDAY'S LATE GAME

Colorado 3, L.A. Angels 2

WEDNESDAY

Houston 5, Oakland 4
Kansas City 9, Detroit 2
Boston 14, Miami 6
Chicago White Sox 4, Yankees 1
Baltimore 10, Toronto 5
Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3
L.A. Dodgers 3, Texas 1

N.L. SCORES

TUESDAY'S LATE GAMES

San Diego 2, Seattle 1
San Francisco 1, Arizona 0

WEDNESDAY

Chicago Cubs 2, Mets 1, 1st game 11 inn.
Mets 10, Chicago Cubs 3, 2nd game
San Diego 8, Seattle 3
Philadelphia 8, Washington 6
Milwaukee 13, Cincinnati 12, 11 innings
Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 0

Clint Dempsey Reaches the End of a Trailblazing Soccer Career

The combative and prolific United States national team striker Clint Dempsey, who played and scored in three straight World Cups, is retiring from soccer.

The Seattle Sounders of M.L.S. announced Wednesday that Dempsey — one of the most successful American soccer exports to Europe before the Sounders brought him back to the United States five years ago — has decided to walk away immediately, even though the M.L.S. regular season runs through the end of October.

"After a lot of thought, my family and I have decided that this is

the right time for me to step away from the game," Dempsey, 35, said in a statement released by the Sounders. "I'd like to thank all of the teammates, coaches and support staff that I've worked with throughout my career. It has always been my dream to make it as a pro. I'm grateful to have been on this ride."

Dempsey, a native Texan widely referred to within the game as Deuce, returned to M.L.S. in a lucrative deal with Seattle in August 2013 after scoring 57 goals in the English Premier League, a record for an American, in his stints with

Fulham and Tottenham.

Dempsey played professionally for 15 years and is tied with Landon Donovan as the leading scorer for the United States men's national team, with 57 goals. Dempsey made his national team debut in 2004 and went on to record 141 appearances, trailing only Cobi Jones (164) and Donovan (157).

After missing part of the Sounders' championship season in 2016 with an irregular heartbeat that was initially feared to be career-threatening, Dempsey returned last season and scored 12 goals for the Sounders to earn

M.L.S. Comeback Player of the Year honors and play his way back onto the national team.

This season, Dempsey managed only one goal in 14 games.

"As far as I'm concerned, Clint Dempsey is the greatest player in the history of our country," Sounders General Manager Garth Lagerwey said in a statement. "His mark on both our club and the United States men's national team is indelible — and his hard-earned reputation as a trailblazer for our national in Europe helped paved the way for generations of future Americans abroad." MARC STEIN

TARNISHED BUCKEYES WEIGH COSTS OF SPORTS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — On any given Saturday, the nearly 105,000-seat home stadium of the Ohio State football team shakes and sways as the team, more often than not, roars to victory in a weekly manifestation of the university's grip on the psyche of the state.

With alumni that include the governor, a United States senator, several members of Congress, and leaders from business, industry and the arts, Ohio State has long been an indomitable civic force.

Yet as its nearly 60,000 students arrive on campus for a new semester scandals tied to the university's sports program have forced many at the university to question its culture of sports above all, as well as the men who lead it.

The day after fall classes began, Urban Meyer, the university's celebrated football coach, was suspended for three games over his handling of the case of a former assistant coach accused of domestic violence. Earlier in the summer, more than 100 former students

came forward with allegations that a former team doctor had molested them years ago; three lawsuits have been filed against the university alleging that it had enabled a sexual predator.

University officials and many alumni insist there is no endemic problem here, just isolated cases that the university is moving to address. Earlier this month, the university announced it was creating a central office for responding to sexual harassment and violence.

Still, for the first time in a long time, difficult conversations have begun over whether the university's priorities are in order. Some students, many of them women, have criticized Meyer's punishment as too light, calling it an example of the power he commands in a state that has relied on his winning ways to deliver millions in revenue to its flagship university.

"I feel like everyone just wants to justify his actions because he means so much to the university and he brings in so much money,"

said Layla Khalid, a 20-year-old student in international studies.

A full-season suspension, she added, would have made clear that the university took the allegations seriously.

"Football means so much to Ohio State," she said. "It's basically a religion on campus."

Many students have rallied in support of Meyer, even as many commentators clamored for his firing after investigators found that he had kept crucial information about his longtime assistant's misconduct from most university officials and had sought to erase his own cellphone records. The assistant coach, Zach Smith, was accused by his former wife, Courtney Smith, of physically abusing her on more than one occasion.

But one bit of context was difficult to ignore: Meyer's success over the past six seasons, with a 73-8 record and a national championship after the 2014 season.

Domestic violence experts have warned that the university's han-

dling of the case could give victims second thoughts about speaking out. Nancy Neylon, executive director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, said the university needed to make sure victims felt safe reporting domestic violence so they could get help. "My concern is that it puts women in more danger," she said. "If for some reason someone didn't feel comfortable coming forward because of the way the university handled it, that's a concern to me," she said.

Terry Casey, a political consultant and Ohio State alumnus, said he hoped the scandal would be viewed as a learning experience.

"My sense of Columbus is that people love the Buckeyes, but they also recognize, in this era of 'me too,' these things must be handled seriously and appropriately," Casey said. "People who are Ohio State graduates, like me, they don't want Ohio State just viewed as a football factory."

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From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Fri 6/29/2018 3:39:09 PM
Subject: Additional Casmalia Coverage

Here is additional coverage from Noozhawk and the Santa Barbara Independent. I’m waiting for a full copy of the story that was published on the front page of the Santa Barbara News-Press. Thanks!

Noozhawk: EPA Leaders Reveal Final Cleanup Plan For Casmalia Superfund Site
Work at closed hazardous waste landfill in northern Santa Barbara County expected to take five years, cost \$60 million
By Janene Scully, Noozhawk North County Editor | June 28, 2018 | 11:02 p.m.

Signaling what may be the last chapter of a decades-long saga, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has revealed the comprehensive final cleanup plan for the contaminated soil and groundwater at the Casmalia Resources Superfund Site in northwestern Santa Barbara County.

On Thursday, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Region 9 Director Mike Stoker unveiled the proposal estimated to take five years and cost \$60 million for the former hazardous waste landfill near the tiny town of Casmalia.

“Adding the Casmalia site to my emphasis list of sites requiring immediate, intense action, and signing this record of decision, demonstrates my commitment to ensure Superfund sites are addressed as quickly and safely as possible,” Pruitt said. “The final cleanup plan utilizes the most effective cleanup technologies and will ensure the Casmalia site will be addressed in a comprehensive and lasting manner.”

“What’s significant about today — the last chapter in any Superfund site is your record of decision and the record of decision is your final actions, your final remedial plans,” said Mike Stoker, EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Mike Stoker of Carpinteria.

EPA’s final remedy calls for removal of contaminated liquids and soils, engineered capping of waste disposal areas, design and construction of upgraded groundwater collection and treatment systems, natural breakdown of groundwater contaminants at some locations, long-term surface water management, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance to ensure onsite containment.

Operations and maintenance costs are estimated at \$4.1 million per year, according to EPA estimates.

“As the former Santa Barbara County supervisor who requested EPA’s designation of Casmalia as a Superfund site more than 25 years ago, this is an especially meaningful milestone,” Stoker said. “Casmalia is a wonderful example of how successful the Superfund process can be when local, state, and federal partners collaborate in the name of protecting public health and revitalizing land.”

Stoker toured the facility Thursday, years after his first visit in 1994.

“Back then, it was gnarly ponds and nasty looking stuff,” he told Noozhawk. “Today it’s basically dried up ponds. There’s only one pond, it’s pretty clear water.”

“This is a big day for the community that really went through a lot in the early stages,” Stoker said. “They know with the EPA Superfund status their public health and safety has been protected.”

Once the site began accepting toxic waste, all water, including precipitation, had to be contained on site, according to permits for the landfill to operate. However, cleanup will mean restoration of creeks and natural water flow, Stoker said.

“Rainwater will be able to flow freely through the site through now what will be dried up ponds that have been completely cleaned, that pose no risk to the public,” Stoker said. “You’ll have a situation where Mother Nature will be allowed to be Mother Nature.”

The Casmalia Resources Superfund Site sits on a 252-acre former commercial hazardous waste management facility, which accepted about 5.6 billion pounds of wastes from more than 10,000 generators between 1973 and 1989.

The waste material included sludges, petroleum wastes, pesticides, solvents, acids, metals, caustics, cyanide and non-liquid polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), EPA officials said.

The facility owners and operators were Casmalia Resources, Hunter Resources Inc., and the late Kenneth H. Hunter, Jr. who abandoned closure and cleanup efforts in 1991 while facing multiple regulatory enforcement actions.

EPA officials said conditions at the time posed “imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment,” leading to a decision to use emergency Superfund powers from 1992 to 1996.

Since 1997, EPA has been managing or overseeing work being conducted at the site.

Although the site has been stabilized and poses no immediate risks to the public, the final cleanup work will provide long-term community protection, EPA officials added.

The plan came after federal EPA staff consulted with state and regional agencies along with community stakeholders. Collaborative efforts included protecting wildlife species such as the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander.

Stoker said he wants to have a community event to celebrate when the final phase of the cleanup begins, noting some community members have been involved for 30 years.

“This is kind of the final chapter for everybody in what was a bad situation,” Stoker said, calling it a positive story. “The public knows that what’s in their backyard is not going to subject them to any risk now or forever in the future, so it’s a real win-win.”

<https://www.noozhawk.com/article/epa-leaders-reveal-final-cleanup-plan-for-casmalia-superfund-site>

Santa Barbara Independent: EPA Chief Pruitt Takes Santa Barbara by Surprise

Signs Final Document for Superfund Cleanup at Casmalia Toxic Dump

Thursday, June 28, 2018, by NICK WELSH (CONTACT)

Looking crisp, brisk, and anything but embattled, EPA Chief Scott Pruitt — dogged by persistent scandals — made a surprise visit to Santa Barbara County on Thursday morning for a ceremonial signing of final remediation plans for the Casmalia Resources toxic dump site located 15 minutes out of Santa Maria. Pruitt was accompanied by Mike Stoker, director for the EPA’s Pacific Southwest region. Stoker, a former Santa Barbara county supervisor and well-known player in local Republican circles for the past 30 years, made the motion back in 1991 when the county asked the EPA to designate the Casmalia toxic dump — final resting place for 5.6 billion pounds of toxic wastes — a Superfund cleanup site.

Since his appointment by Donald Trump, Pruitt has pushed to accelerate action on the nation’s hundreds of superfund sites. In December, Pruitt released a list of top 21 Superfund Sites slated for special attention. Shortly thereafter, he added Casmalia as number 22. Not long after that, news leaked out that Stoker’s nomination as new regional chief was all but a done deal.

Thursday’s ceremonial action — held under a large tent protecting those underneath from blazing sunshine — was the final legal formality required to formalize the final cleanup plan for the 252-acre site. The signing — technically known as the Record of Decision — defines the parameters of the cleanup plan and sets in motion a series of contracts to spend \$60 million to cap and cover the existing toxic storage facilities. That work is expected to take five to six years. When done, the site will require perpetual monitoring to ensure that highly hazardous materials and their remnants do not migrate offsite via underground aquifers. That work is estimated to cost \$4.1 million a year.

Pruitt has been under steady fire for the past several months — both for his aggressive hostility to regulatory protections championed by environmentalists as well as a steady stream of ethical breaches. (His aides were assigned to help his wife secure a Chick-fil-A franchise; another aide had been assigned to get a used mattress from a Trump-owned hotel.) Yet Pruitt has managed to confound those predicting his political demise and remained in power. Little surprise Pruitt is so famously gun shy about environmental protestors and critics. He could not have selected a safer, more isolated location than the Casmalia Resources dump, shut down in 1989 amid an outcry of over health impacts to downstream residents. The Casmalia dump is located amid expansively rolling hillsides southwest of Santa Maria and behind a security gate manned by a uniformed security guard.

Pruitt’s comments were short and sweet. “Adding the Casmalia site,” he said, “demonstrates my commitment to ensure Superfund sites are addressed as quickly and as safely as possible.” Pruitt added that “leadership and direction” are needed to get the job done and “get answers for the communities they’re around.” For Pruitt, regarded by his environmental critics as all but the Antichrist, Thursday morning was a moment he could fly the flag of environmental accomplishment. Today is a celebration,” he

proclaimed.

Pruitt took no questions from the small gathering of reporters, shook hands and exchanged pleasantries with the three county supervisors present — Steve Lavagnino, Joan Hartmann, and Peter Adam — and then quickly left. It was Stoker who remained and took questions from reporters for about 15 minutes. Aside from some momentary confusion between Stoker and Pruitt as to what the date was during the signing, the event was utterly without incident. (Stoker confessed a certain disorientation, having slept in his own bed only five times, he said, during his first six weeks on the job.)

Thursday was really Stoker's coming-out ceremony as the EPA's new Pacific Southwest regional boss since he was sworn in six weeks ago. For Stoker — frequently lambasted for his work for one of the most heavily fined oil companies in California: Greka — Thursday was also a moment in which he could flex. As former 5th District supervisor, he recalled making the motion to have Casmalia declared a Superfund site. "We operated under the false pretenses that there was impermeable clay underneath the site," he recalled. "When we got information that suggested otherwise, it was 'Houston we have a problem,' and we pulled a 180." By that Stoker meant that county officials — who had strongly supported Casmalia's operations in the face of community opposition — moved to shut the site down after discovering that the geology underneath the site was not as impermeable as they'd been repeatedly assured. In fact, contaminants found their way through cracks and fissures in the subsoil clay and migrated about 100 meters down and laterally. Although no contaminants migrated beyond the boundaries of the 252-acre property, they did get beyond the perimeter of the permitted area.

That revelation proved to be a political game changer for Casmalia. Prior to that, only one supervisor — Stoker's predecessor on the board, Toru Miyoshi — had pitched a fit about toxic mists and smells that downstream residents complained was causing nosebleeds, headaches, miscarriages, and worse. County and state health officials initially dismissed such concerns as "olfactory hallucinations." Once the groundwater risks became an issue, those concerns were taken more seriously. About the same time, it came out that dump operators failed to set aside as much money as they were required for closure, cleanup, and containment.

Nearby residents, Stoker recalled, felt abandoned by their elected officials. They were terrified by the health consequences of continued exposure. Those who owned homes felt especially trapped. No one would buy their homes, and they couldn't afford to move. "I remember going to workshops at that time, and people were throwing chairs at each other," Stoker recalled. "It was pretty nasty."

Stoker said when the site is fully remediated, rain will be allowed to fall on the site without being trapped, caught and impounded, as has been the case the past 25 years. For the first time, it will be allowed to flow, unimpeded, wherever the rise and fall of the land dictates.

Although Congressman Salud Carbajal did not attend Thursday's event, he had met with Stoker the day before in Washington, D.C. A liberal Democrat and avid critic of Trump, Carbajal has expressed criticism of Stoker's appointment in the past and has been unrelenting in his condemnation of Pruitt. Even so, he expressed grudging appreciation for the attention Santa Barbara's only Superfund site was getting. "It's about time, but people should not be confused they made this happen. This work has been taking place for years now," he said. "The merry-go-round just happened to stop now."

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<https://www.independent.com/news/2018/jun/28/epa-chief-pruitt-takes-santa-barbara-surprise/>

Nahal Mogharabi

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles

D: 213-244-1815 | C: 213-514-4361 | E: mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

To: Stoker, Michael B.[stoker.michael@epa.gov]; Miller, Amy[Miller.Amy@epa.gov]
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Paul Wellman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt (pictured) visited Casmalia Resources Superfund Site with EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Mike Stoker to announce a final cleanup plan for contaminated soil and groundwater estimated to take five years and cost approximately \$60 million. (June 28, 2018).

EPA Chief Pruitt Takes Santa Barbara by Surprise

Signs Final Document for Superfund Cleanup at Casmalia Toxic Dump

Thursday, June 28, 2018

By [Nick Welsh](#) ([Contact](#))

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Kelly Zito

Director of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
San Francisco, CA
Office: 415.947.4306
Mobile: 415.760.9171

Web: [EPA in the Pacific Southwest](#)

Twitter <https://twitter.com/EPAregion9>

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EPA-18-0426-A-000017

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Subject: Fwd: Alert: Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

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Begin forwarded message:

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Date: May 30, 2018 at 2:36:49 AM HST
To: Michael Stoker <mikestoker@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Alert: Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Bloomberg Government <alerts@bgov.com>
Date: May 30, 2018 at 3:04:59 AM PDT
To: <mlotito@littler.com>
Subject: Alert: Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

By Ben Penn and Josh Eidelson | May 30, 2018 06:04AM ET | Bloomberg BNA

(Bloomberg Law) -- An ardent Donald Trump supporter is now leading an Environmental Protection Agency regional office, despite his still-pending nomination to direct the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The Senate and the White House are offering conflicting accounts about whether agriculture industry consultant Mike Stoker remains in contention to run the FMCS or whether he is now fully committed to an EPA post that doesn't require congressional approval. Stoker is a Trump loyalist, credited in some media outlets for originating the "lock her up" chant about Hillary Clinton during the 2016 Republican National Convention.

The FMCS is an independent agency in Washington responsible for mediating union-management conflicts. The next director would be at the center of brokering peace between parties that have been unable to come to terms on bargaining agreements or to end strikes and lockouts.

The Trump administration May 18 appointed Stoker as the EPA's regional administrator with great fanfare. An EPA [statement](#) praised his qualifications to oversee the agency's critical Pacific Southwest territory, and Administrator Scott

Pruitt saluted Stoker's selection in a [tweet](#). But the administration neglected to mention that Stoker's name has technically still pending before the Senate since January as Trump's pick for a different job, some 2,700 miles away.

Stoker, a farming industry attorney who forcefully backed Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, has a personal Facebook page that includes insults directed at former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and a video of himself leading a RNC "lock her up" chant. Two years later, Stoker's future working for President Trump involves an ambiguous dual-agency status.

Aides from both sides of the aisle on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee told Bloomberg Law that Stoker didn't complete paperwork for the FMCS position that the panel requires before holding a confirmation hearing. The HELP Committee hasn't scheduled a hearing for Stoker and hasn't discussed his name during private personnel nomination meetings for months, one aide said.

Yet the White House is placing the blame for Stoker's change of plans on Senate Democrats.

"We have full confidence in Mike Stoker, and will not be withdrawing his nomination to serve as FMCS Director," deputy White House press secretary Lindsay Walters told Bloomberg Law in a prepared statement. "If he decides to work at EPA while he's waiting for obstructionist Senate Democrats to allow a vote on his confirmation, we support him."

Paperwork Problems

When informed of the White House statement, a Democratic HELP Committee aide told Bloomberg Law in an email, "If the White House actually had confidence in this nominee, they would send over his confirmation paperwork so the Committee can begin the necessary vetting."

Asked to address Stoker's committee paperwork and to explain how Democrats have obstructed the process, the White House didn't provide a reply.

Trump's first nominee for labor secretary, Andrew Puzder, had his scheduled confirmation hearing delayed several times because of complications in filing personal and financial records with the HELP Committee, among other reasons. But in Stoker's circumstance, the Senate committee has moved on, Stoker is settling into a new, typically permanent slot at EPA, and the FMCS is showing no signs of planning for a future with Stoker at the helm.

A source familiar with the situation said it doesn't appear that the White House is going to move forward with Stoker's nomination. The source also said there's no sign that the White House has another person in mind for the FMCS job.

Stoker Focused on EPA

Stoker told Bloomberg Law when reached by phone that he is "focusing on the EPA right now." He directed questions to the White House on the whereabouts of his committee disclosures.

EPA-18-0426-A-000020

“I don’t submit paperwork; the White House does,” Stoker said. “I submitted everything to the White House. I have no idea what the White House did.”

EPA representatives didn’t respond to requests for comment.

The FMCS has also apparently been kept out of the loop on whether the White House wishes to stay the course or install a new nominee. “With regards to Michael Stoker, we’re aware of his position with the EPA,” Greg Raelson, an FMCS spokesman, told Bloomberg Law. “We have not been informed that his appointment with FMCS has been withdrawn.”

‘Lock Her Up’

It remains unclear whether Stoker’s uninhibited social media presence played a role in the decision to move him to a position that wouldn’t require Senate confirmation.

In a series of posts on his personal Facebook page throughout the run-up to the 2016 presidential election, Stoker presented himself firmly in the pro-Trump, anti-Clinton camp. In one, he shares a [video](#) in which he is seen participating in a “lock her up” chant during then-vice presidential nominee Mike Pence’s speech at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

“Lock her up” was a popular refrain among RNC attendees that is still chanted at the president’s rallies in reference to Clinton’s use of a private email server while serving as secretary of state and other allegations.

Stoker’s Facebook feed also includes an image he shared mocking Clinton’s personal fashion.

—With assistance from Hassan A. Kanu (Bloomberg Law)

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AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

EPA-18-0426-A-000021

ED_002237_00000043_2_d4d34d52-6b9e-c196-aadd-7cb72eaae70c

To: Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Miller, Amy[Miller.Amy@epa.gov]; Jordan, Deborah[Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]; Strauss, Alexis[Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Wed 5/30/2018 5:10:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: Alert: Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: mikestoker@aol.com
Date: May 30, 2018 at 6:15:23 AM HST
To: stoker.michael@epa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Alert: Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lotito, Michael J." <MLotito@littler.com>
Date: May 30, 2018 at 2:36:49 AM HST
To: Michael Stoker <mikestoker@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Alert: Trump Pick to Run Mediation Service Lands at EPA. What Happened?

Sent from my iPhone

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To: mikestoker@aol.com[mikestoker@aol.com]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Sat 5/26/2018 5:09:43 AM
Subject: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up - San Francisco Chronicle

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/New-EPA-administrator-in-San-Francisco-says-12945205.php>

New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up

By [Peter Fimrite](#)

May 25, 2018 Updated: May 25, 2018 4:55pm

Photo: Environmental Protection Agency/

Image 1 of 3

Michael Stoker, the administrator of EPA Region 9, in San Francisco

The new head of the Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco headquarters vowed Friday to work diligently on environmental issues, including the clean up of toxic Superfund sites, a slate of work that he claims will keep him so busy it won't matter that he still lives in Southern California.

Mike Stoker, the 62-year-old Santa Barbara County attorney named last week as administrator of the EPA's Pacific Southwest Region, was criticized by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, for what she said was his plan to oversee 702 San Francisco employees from a Los Angeles satellite office.

The Republican stalwart, who has fought for fossil fuels and led "Lock Her Up" chants in opposition to Hillary Clinton, said he will be traveling most of the time, but will work out of both the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices when he is in town.

"My duty station, my home office, is San Francisco," said Stoker, who lives in Carpinteria (Santa Barbara County), and pointed out that Southern California is a huge area with at least as many environmental problems as the Bay Area. "I don't think it matters at all (where the administrator lives). I'll be on the road."

Stoker, who is in charge of enforcing federal regulations in Region 9, covering California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and the Pacific islands, said his goals are in line with those of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who recently released a list of 21 Superfund sites targeted for immediate attention. The list included two of the 111 sites in Region 9. California has 98 Superfund sites, second in the nation to New Jersey.

Remediating and closing Superfund sites "is one of my top priorities," Stoker said. "Closure is a win win for the environment."

Environmentalists and EPA managers, however, insist that Pruitt's version of remediation is to cut staff and relax regulations at toxic sites and decrease critical oversight of polluting industries.

EPA-18-0426-A-000027

ED_002237_00000073_0_3cf6587e-e9a3-35cb-28da-bdcc3dddbfa0

Stoker said he doesn't expect to get involved in conflicts between California and Pruitt, including a skirmish over whether the state can maintain stricter vehicle fuel standards than the rest of the nation.

"Pruitt's approach is having uniform standards (so) there's a dispute there," he said, adding that he supports his boss. "That's a Washington D.C. issue. We end up implementing the policies based on the decisions that are made."

Stoker, who once worked at a fossil fuel company that was prosecuted by the EPA for a series of oil spills, has questioned the scientific consensus on climate change, but poo-pooed the notion that the view would impact his work protecting the environment.

"You know, the bottom line is global warming doesn't impact me," he said. "We implement whatever the federal government decides."

He expressed support for Pruitt's recent decision to require EPA researchers to publicly disclose their methodology whenever they reach scientific conclusions.

Stoker will leave Tuesday for the Big Island of Hawaii, where he expects to assist local officials dealing with the lava and methane-spewing flames at the erupting Kilauea volcano.

"The first priority always becomes a natural disaster in your district," Stoker said. "That is at the top of my list."

Once he's back, he said, his experience as a Santa Barbara County supervisor from 1986 to 1994 will guide him on the job. He said he served as chairman of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District from 1992 to 1994, working with the EPA and other environmental organizations on, among other things, the Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Landfill.

The 252-acre Casmalia disposal facility, which opened in 1973 in the hills in Santa Barbara County, once stored 4.5 billion pounds of hazardous waste. It was closed in 1989 and is now a Superfund Site. The EPA released a 5-year, \$60 million cleanup plan in December 2017 for contaminated soil and groundwater at the site.

"I started on that in 1991," said Stoker, who plans to speed up the cleanup and close Casmalia as a Superfund site. He said he expects an announcement about that in "two or three months."

Stoker said he had a good relationship when he was a supervisor with the Chumash tribe, in Southern California, and expects to work closely with the 148 tribal nations in Region 9 on clean water issues, infrastructure and pollution from abandoned mines and other problems.

He said he would work hard obtaining funding for California from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, known as WIFIA, a federal credit program for water and sewage infrastructure projects established in 2014 and administered by the EPA.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is hoping to get a \$625 million low-interest loan from WIFIA to offset the \$1.3 billion cost of replacing its 60-year-old solid wastewater processing facilities at the city's Southeast Treatment Plant, in Bayview-Hunters Point. The plant processes about 80 percent of San Francisco's wastewater.

EPA-18-0426-A-000028

Another priority, he said, will be to contain and clean up man-made chemicals known as Per- and polyfluoroalkyl, or PFAS, which are contained in some food packaging, water-repellent fabrics, nonstick cooking pans, paints, cleaning products and fire-fighting foams.

“PFAS have been a huge issue that all prior administrations have ignored,” Stoker said.

He said he has already taken steps to improve what many employees have complained is seriously low morale at the San Francisco office. He announced the appointment Friday of Amy Miller as acting chief of staff and the promotion of Deborah Jordan from acting to permanent deputy regional administrator.

Alexis Strauss, who took over as acting regional administrator in 2016 will be kept on, he said, in “whatever title she wants.”

“I can tell you,” he said. “I’m working with some of the most professional people I’ve worked with in my life.”

Peter Fimrite is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. Email: pfimrite@sfchronicle.com. Twitter: [@pfimrite](https://twitter.com/pfimrite)

Sent from my iPhone

To: tarastoker@aol.com[tarastoker@aol.com]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Sat 5/26/2018 4:08:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: SF Chronicle: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mogharabi, Nahal" <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>
Date: May 25, 2018 at 6:31:20 PM PDT
To: "Stoker, Michael B." <stoker.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: **Re: SF Chronicle: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up**

Sorry about that. Don't know why the formatting keeps getting messed up.
I'm trying to fix it, in the meantime here is the direct link. Might be easier to read directly from the link: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/New-EPA-administrator-in-San-Francisco-says-12945205.php>

Let me know if this works. I'll keep messing with the formatting and resend along.

Thanks,

Nahal

On May 25, 2018, at 6:19 PM, Stoker, Michael B. <stoker.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

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By Peter Fimrite, May 25, 2018 Updated: May 25, 2018 4:55pm

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Nahal Mogharabi

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles

D: 213-244-1815 | C: 213-514-4361 | E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

To: Mogharabi, Nahal[MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Sat 5/26/2018 4:04:18 AM
Subject: Re: SF Chronicle: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up

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<https://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/New-EPA-administrator-in-San-Francisco-says-12945205.php>

Nahal Mogharabi

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles

D: 213-244-1815 | C: 213-514-4361 | E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

To: Stoker, Michael B.[stoker.michael@epa.gov]
From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Sat 5/26/2018 1:31:20 AM
Subject: Re: SF Chronicle: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up

Sorry about that. Don't know why the formatting keeps getting messed up.
I'm trying to fix it, in the meantime here is the direct link. Might be easier to read directly from the link: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/New-EPA-administrator-in-San-Francisco-says-12945205.php>

Let me know if this works. I'll keep messing with the formatting and resend along.

Thanks,

Nahal

On May 25, 2018, at 6:19 PM, Stoker, Michael B. <stoker.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

A lot of this is not coming through unfortunately. Can you do a cut and past. Thx Nahal.
Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On May 25, 2018, at 5:41 PM, Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV> wrote:

Hi Mike,

Below is the story that just ran from today's interview.

New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up
By Peter Fimrite, May 25, 2018 Updated: May 25, 2018 4:55pm

The new head of the Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco headquarters vowed Friday to work diligently on environmental issues, including the clean up of toxic Superfund sites, a slate of work that he claims will keep him so busy it won't matter that he still lives in Southern California.

Mike Stoker, the 62-year-old Santa Barbara County attorney named last week as administrator of the EPA's Pacific Southwest Region, was criticized by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, for what she said was his plan to oversee 702 San Francisco employees from a Los Angeles satellite office.

The Republican stalwart, who has fought for fossil fuels and led "Lock Her Up" chants in opposition to Hillary Clinton, said he will be traveling most of the time, but will work out of both the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices when he is in town.

"My duty station, my home office, is San Francisco," said Stoker, who lives in Carpinteria (Santa Barbara County), and pointed out that Southern California is a huge area with at least as many environmental problems as the Bay Area. "I don't think it matters at all (where the administrator lives). I'll be on the road."

Stoker, who is in charge of enforcing federal regulations in Region 9, covering California, EPA-18-0426-A-000038

Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and the Pacific islands, said his goals are in line with those of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who recently released a list of 21 Superfund sites targeted for immediate attention. The list included two of the 111 sites in Region 9. California has 98 Superfund sites, second in the nation to New Jersey.

Remediating and closing Superfund sites “is one of my top priorities,” Stoker said. “Closure is a win win for the environment.”

Environmentalists and EPA managers, however, insist that Pruitt’s version of remediation is to cut staff and relax regulations at toxic sites and decrease critical oversight of polluting industries.

Stoker said he doesn’t expect to get involved in conflicts between California and Pruitt, including a skirmish over whether the state can maintain stricter vehicle fuel standards than the rest of the nation.

“Pruitt’s approach is having uniform standards (so) there’s a dispute there,” he said, adding that he supports his boss. “That’s a Washington D.C. issue. We end up implementing the policies based on the decisions that are made.”

Stoker, who once worked at a fossil fuel company that was prosecuted by the EPA for a series of oil spills, has questioned the scientific consensus on climate change, but poo-pooed the notion that the view would impact his work protecting the environment.

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He expressed support for Pruitt’s recent decision to require EPA researchers to publicly disclose their methodology whenever they reach scientific conclusions.

Stoker will leave Tuesday for the Big Island of Hawaii, where he expects to assist local officials dealing with the lava and methane-spewing flames at the erupting Kilauea volcano.

“The first priority always becomes a natural disaster in your district,” Stoker said. “That is at the top of my list.”

Once he’s back, he said, his experience as a Santa Barbara County supervisor from 1986 to 1994 will guide him on the job. He said he served as chairman of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District from 1992 to 1994, working with the EPA and other environmental organizations on, among other things, the Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Landfill.

The 252-acre Casmalia disposal facility, which opened in 1973 in the hills in Santa Barbara County, once stored 4.5 billion pounds of hazardous waste. It was closed in 1989 and is now a Superfund Site. The EPA released a 5-year, \$60 million cleanup plan in December 2017 for contaminated soil and groundwater at the site.

“I started on that in 1991,” said Stoker, who plans to speed up the cleanup and close Casmalia as a Superfund site. He said he expects an announcement about that in “two or three months.”

Stoker said he had a good relationship when he was a supervisor with the Chumash tribe, in Southern California, and expects to work closely with the 148 tribal nations in Region 9 on clean water issues, infrastructure and pollution from abandoned mines and other problems.

He said he would work hard obtaining funding for California from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, known as WIFIA, a federal credit program for water and sewage infrastructure projects established in 2014 and administered by the EPA.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is hoping to get a \$625 million low-interest loan from WIFIA to offset the \$1.3 billion cost of replacing its 60-year-old solid wastewater processing facilities at the city’s Southeast Treatment Plant, in Bayview-Hunters Point. The plant processes about 80 percent of San Francisco’s wastewater.

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EPA-18-0426-A-000040

Nahal Mogharabi

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles

D: 213-244-1815 | C: 213-514-4361 | E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

To: Mogharabi, Nahal[MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Sat 5/26/2018 1:19:25 AM
Subject: Re: SF Chronicle: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up

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EPA-18-0426-A-000043

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To: Stoker, Michael B.[stoker.michael@epa.gov]
Cc: Strauss, Alexis[Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov]; Jordan, Deborah[Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]; Miller, Amy[Miller.Amy@epa.gov]; Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Glenn, William[Glenn.William@epa.gov]; LEONIDO-JOHN, STEVEN[Leonido-John.Steven@epa.gov]; Munoz, Charles[munoz.charles@epa.gov]
From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Sat 5/26/2018 12:41:42 AM
Subject: SF Chronicle: New EPA administrator in San Francisco says he's prioritizing Superfund site clean up

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By Peter Fimrite, May 25, 2018 Updated: May 25, 2018 4:55pm

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AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

EPA-18-0426-A-000045

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D: 213-244-1815 | C: 213-514-4361 | E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

To: Gladfelder, Lawrence[Gladfelder.Lawrence@epa.gov]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Wed 5/23/2018 12:46:46 AM
Subject: Re: Welcome Aboard

Thx Lawrence. Treat to be aboard.
Best regards,
Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On May 21, 2018, at 2:30 PM, Gladfelder, Lawrence <Gladfelder.Lawrence@epa.gov> wrote:

Mike, Welcome aboard, looking forward to working with you to “Make America Great Again”. Thanks Larry

Lawrence Gladfelder

To: Miller, Amy[Miller.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Stoker, Michael B.
Sent: Wed 5/23/2018 12:46:14 AM
Subject: Fwd: Welcome Aboard

Amy,
Do you know who this is? EPA employee.
Mike

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gladfelder, Lawrence" <Gladfelder.Lawrence@epa.gov>
Date: May 21, 2018 at 2:30:50 PM PDT
To: "Stoker, Michael B." <stoker.michael@epa.gov>, "Adams, Mikeal" <adams.mikeal@epa.gov>
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Lawrence Gladfelder